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Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2014: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report reviews the progress made by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in implementing its programme of work in the field of population in 2014. It covers the activities of the Division on the analysis of fertility, population policies and international migration; the preparation of world population estimates and projections; the analysis of mortality; the interrelations between population and development; and the monitoring and dissemination of population information The report also covers other major activities carried out by the Population Division, including the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documentation and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results, mainly through the Internet.

The objective of the subprogramme on population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimensions into the international development agenda. The Commission on Population and Development provides the subprogramme with intergovernmental guidance.

The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

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Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Fertility and family planning	4
III.	Population policies	5
IV.	International migration	7
V.	World population estimates and projections	8
VI.	Health and mortality	10
VII.	Population and development	11
VIII.	Monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information	13
	A. Monitoring of population trends and policies	13
	B. Coordination activities	14
	C. Dissemination of population information and data	15
IX.	Technical cooperation	15
Annex		
	Workshops, publications and other materials organized or prepared by the Population Division (1 January-31 December 2014)	16

I. Introduction

1. The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme on population. The subprogramme takes account of the recommendations of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly (resolution S-21/2, annex) on key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[1] and the decision of the General Assembly to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and ensure its follow-up in order to fully meet its goals and objectives (resolution 65/234). The outcomes of other relevant international conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2), the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1) and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (resolution 66/288), are also taken into account. The subprogramme responds to the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Population and Development, in particular resolution 2004/1 on the work programme in the field of population (E/2004/25, chap. I, sect. B), and to relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

2. As described in the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2014-2015, the objective of the subprogramme on population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimensions into the international development agenda (see A/67/6/Rev.1, programme 7, subprogramme 5). The Commission on Population and Development provides intergovernmental guidance to the subprogramme.

3. The expected accomplishments for the subprogramme, according to the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (A/68/6 (Sect. 9)), are:

(a) Enhanced awareness of the international community of new and emerging population issues and increased knowledge and understanding of the interactions between population and development, including the gender dimensions of demographic phenomena, especially in regard to fertility, mortality, migration, HIV/AIDS, urbanization, population growth, population ageing and the environment;

(b) Effectively facilitate review by Member States of progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of relevant instruments of the United Nations development agenda, particularly the Millennium Summit and its follow-up;

(c) Improved accessibility and timeliness of population information and data, including sex-disaggregated data for use by Member States, the United Nations system, civil society and academia.

4. The Population Division collaborates closely with the agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

work programme and in the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. United Nations missions, national government offices, United Nations offices, researchers, media representatives and the public regularly consult the Population Division regarding data, information and analyses on population and development issues.

5. The present report focuses on the research and other activities carried out by the Population Division during 2014, grouped by thematic area, and provides a summary of the activities and outputs of the Division, which include the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documentation and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results. A list of activities and outputs is presented in the annex.

II. Fertility and family planning

6. The Population Division issued *World Contraceptive Use 2014*, a comprehensive data set on family planning indicators for 194 countries or areas. The data set fills some of the gaps in empirical data on family planning, including on the prevalence of specific methods and on the unmet need for family planning. The data set is available on the website of the Population Division (www.unpopulation.org) and is being used widely by entities focused on improving sexual and reproductive health.

7. The Division produced and published a set of long-term estimates and projections of family planning indicators, for the period 1970 to 2030, by applying a Bayesian hierarchical model.[2] The new estimates and projections informed assessments in 2014 of progress in international initiatives to improve women's reproductive health, such as "Every woman, every child" and Family Planning 2020, and in several flagship reports on population.[3] Extrabudgetary funds were secured in November 2014 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate this work to improve the quantity, quality, transparency and accessibility of key family planning indicators and the population data needed for the calculation of those indicators.

8. The Population Division, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is responsible for reporting on three indicators of universal access to reproductive health that are part of the Millennium Development Goals, namely, contraceptive prevalence (indicator 5.3), the adolescent birth rate (indicator 5.4) and the unmet need for family planning (indicator 5.6). In 2014, the Division produced updated estimates for the Millennium Development Goals database maintained by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Population Division also collaborated with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNFPA on analysis included in the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2014* and contributed to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators.

[2] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/family-planning/cp_model.shtml.

[3] See www.who.int/woman_child_accountability/ierg/news/ierg_2014_report_launch/en/, www.familyplanning2020.org and www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/SWP%202014/Report%20files/EN-SWOP14-Report_FINAL-web.pdf.

9. A concise analysis of fertility was presented in the *World Fertility Report 2013*,[4] which focuses on fertility at the extremes: countries where fertility levels are relatively high (more than 3.2 children per woman) and countries where levels are relatively low (2.0 children per woman or fewer). In 1990-1995, around the time of the Conference, 105 countries had high fertility, as opposed to just 66 countries in 2005-2010. Several countries, such as Iran (Islamic Republic of), the United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam, experienced rapid fertility declines over this period, moving from high fertility to low fertility in the span of a single generation. High-fertility countries are increasingly concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa while the low-fertility group has shifted from being predominantly European to also include countries in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. The report highlights the different pathways countries have taken that resulted in the levels of fertility at the extremes of today, how key correlates of fertility have changed over time and the policy approaches of countries with fertility at the extremes.

10. The Division published a technical paper[5] that assessed the relationship between probabilistic projections of total fertility and contraceptive prevalence. The results show that, for the majority of countries, future fertility until 2025 can be benchmarked with a model of contraceptive prevalence rates. Moreover, the projected levels of contraceptive prevalence implied by the total fertility rates from the World Population Prospects 2012 medium variant approximate, within five percentage points, the model-based projections of contraceptive prevalence in the majority of countries and major areas during 2020-2035. The model-based projections can thus serve to inform analyses of the impact of accelerating access to contraception on fertility and population size.

11. In order to inform discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, the Population Division produced a brief on the role that population growth plays in planning for health service expansion and understanding progress that is or is not being made in achieving universal access to reproductive health.[6] In particular, sub-Saharan Africa, despite the large expansion of health services in the absolute number of people receiving health services, is found to be lagging behind other regions in the proportionate population coverage of key services such as antenatal care, skilled attendance at birth and contraceptive use.

III. Population policies

12. In 2014, the Population Division launched the United Nations Eleventh Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development.[7] Following the tradition of the previous rounds of the Inquiry since 1963, this survey records government views and policies on key aspects of population and development and provides a unique tool for documenting how such views and policies have changed over time. The Eleventh Inquiry has added questions on several topics of growing importance for population policy, such as urbanization, ageing, family-friendly

[4] United Nations publication (ST/ESA/SER.A/362).

[5] Technical Paper No. 2014/1; available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/technical/TP2014-1.pdf.

[6] Population Facts No. 2014/6; available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2014-6.pdf.

[7] Available from esa.un.org/PopPolicy/Inquiry.aspx.

policies, and international migration. The Eleventh Inquiry was distributed to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York and was made available in print and electronic formats. As at the end of 2014, responses had been received from 58 Governments out of a total of 197 Governments to which the Inquiry was submitted. The Eleventh Inquiry will be completed in 2015, and the results will be incorporated, together with additional research and data from primary and secondary sources, into the next biennial revision of the World Population Policies database,[8] which will be published in 2015.

13. The Division published a report entitled *Abortion Policies and Reproductive Health around the World*.[9] The report provides up-to-date information on government policies on abortion and related reproductive health issues for all Member, Observer and non-member States of the United Nations. The report discusses changes between 1996 and 2013 in the legal grounds on which induced abortion is permitted in each country. Seven types of legal grounds for abortion were identified, namely, (a) to save the life of a woman; (b) to preserve a woman's physical health; (c) to preserve a woman's mental health; (d) rape or incest; (e) foetal impairment; (f) economic or social reasons; and (g) upon request. The report included the latest available information on government policies and programmes related to fertility, family planning, access to reproductive health services and maternal mortality.

14. The Division also published a policy brief on this topic[10] using information from the 2013 revision of the World Population Policies Database. The brief summarized changes in the legal grounds under which abortion was permitted for all countries, and how abortion policies were associated with key reproductive health outcomes, including fertility, unsafe abortion and maternal mortality. Among the key findings is that, although a growing number of countries around the world have expanded the legal grounds for abortion, abortion policies continue to be restrictive in many countries. The brief observed that countries with restrictive abortion policies tend to have higher rates of unsafe abortion and maternal mortality.

15. The Division prepared a *Compendium of Recommendations on Population and Development* prior to the twenty-ninth special session of the General Assembly, held on 22 September 2014, on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014. Volume I of the Compendium[11] compares recommendations emanating from the Programme of Action with resolutions adopted by the Commission on Population and Development. General Assembly resolutions on population and development since 1994 were also included in this volume of the Compendium. Volume II[12] presents the recommendations emanating from the outcome documents of five regional conferences on population and development convened by the regional commissions, in collaboration with UNFPA, as part of the 20-year review of the Programme of Action.

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[8] Available from http://esa.un.org/PopPolicy/about_database.aspx.

[9] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.XIII.11.

[10] Population Facts No. 2014/1; available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2014-1.pdf.

[11] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.XIII.12.

[12] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.XIII.13.

16. The Division published a wallchart entitled *Reproductive Health Policies 2014*,[13] which provides up-to-date information on 17 indicators of government policies on reproductive health issues, including fertility, family planning, abortion and maternal mortality for countries of the world. The wallchart also includes the latest estimates of adolescent and total fertility, the unmet need for family planning, and the maternal mortality ratio, and provides information on the adoption of concrete governmental measures to increase access to sexual and reproductive health services and to end child and forced marriages.

IV. International migration

17. In response to General Assembly resolution 67/219, the Population Division prepared the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/69/207). The report was drafted in collaboration with members of the Global Migration Group and with inputs from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Migration. As requested in Assembly resolution 68/4, the report includes a summary of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in New York on 3 and 4 October 2013, as well as of its preparatory events. The report also outlines the main initiatives taken by the Population Division and other members of the Global Migration Group to implement the eight-point agenda for action presented by the Secretary-General in his report for the 2013 High-level Dialogue (A/68/190). Further, the report offers some recommendations for the follow-up to the 2013 High-level Dialogue.

18. The Population Division hosted two retreats of the Global Migration Group on targets and indicators related to international migration, migrants and mobility for the post-2015 development agenda. The one-day retreats, convened with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), allowed for in-depth inter-agency discussions on measurement issues and data availability in regard to migration and the post-2015 development agenda. The first retreat, held in January, assessed technical aspects of various migration-related indicators, while the second retreat, in October, reviewed indicators to measure the implementation of migration-related targets as proposed by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

19. The Population Division collaborated in other activities of the Global Migration Group, including the organization of a side event for the Group and the Global Forum on Migration and Development and one for the Group and representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector, both held at the United Nations in New York.

20. The Population Division, together with IOM, initiated work on a practical guide to measure international migration and its impact on development, a project supported by the World Bank's Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD).

21. The Population Division continued to maintain and update the global migration database, the world's most comprehensive collection of empirical data on the number and characteristics of international migrants. By the end of 2014, the database included over 4,800 data tables available for over 91 per cent of all

[13] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.XIII.10.

countries and areas of the world.[14] With more than 6,000 registered users across the world, the database is a major resource for migration researchers.

22. The Population Division published migration profiles for all countries and areas of the world based on a common set of indicators. The indicators, prepared in collaboration with UNICEF and other members of the Global Migration Group,[15] are divided into four major parts. Part I covers the adoption of legal instruments related to international migration. Part II includes projections of net migration and their impact on the size of the population. Part III presents development indicators, including life expectancy, GDP per capita, remittances and others. Part IV includes data on the international migrant stock by major age group and country of origin, estimates of the number and composition of the refugee population, and data on student migration.

23. Throughout the year, the Population Division provided support to the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Migration, including through updating the Special Representative's webpage, showcasing his most recent articles.

24. The Population Division redesigned the website www.unmigration.org. The website is the main platform of the Division to disseminate information, data and analysis pertaining to its migration-related activities. The website provides access to the latest estimates of the international migrant stock, international migration flows and related publications. It also serves as a repository for meetings on migration serviced and organized by the Population Division, including intergovernmental meetings, inter-agency coordination meetings, and expert meetings. The website further provides a comprehensive set of reports by the Secretary-General on international migration and development as well as relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Population and Development.

V. World population estimates and projections

25. The preparation of the official United Nations population estimates and projections for all countries and areas of the world is a core element of the work of the Population Division. The estimates and projections are used extensively within the United Nations system and by the general public, and are distributed as part of widely used databases accessible over the Internet, including the World Development Indicators maintained by the World Bank; the data portal of the United Nations, UNDATA, maintained by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; and FAOSTAT, the statistics database maintained by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Several commercial database services also redistribute the Division's work, under agreements with the Department of Public Information.

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[14] The Population Division produces and publishes population estimates and projections for all 233 countries and areas of the world, a number that includes the 193 States Members of the United Nations and 40 areas or territories.

[15] United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, and UNICEF, *Migration Profiles — Common Set of Indicators* (2014). Available from http://esa.un.org/MigGMGProfiles/MPCSI.htm.

26. In February 2014 the Division released a report[16] with a detailed explanation of the methodology used to produce *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision*. The report describes the way in which country estimates have been prepared and the approaches and assumptions that were used to project fertility, mortality and international migration until 2100. The report also provides an overview of the variants used in generating the different sets of population projections as well as information on the recently developed probabilistic projection methods.

27. In July 2014, the Population Division released a full set of "probabilistic population projections"[17] based on *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision*, released in 2013. The probabilistic projections are based on historical data series of population by age and sex, as well as fertility and mortality trends between 1950 and 2010 for all countries and areas of the world, and incorporate methodological advances carried out by the Population Division in cooperation with researchers from the University of Washington, in Seattle, and the National University of Singapore.

28. The Population Division also issued *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision*, in June 2014. This product includes the latest estimates and projections of the urban and rural populations of 233 countries or areas for the period 1950 to 2050, as well as estimates and projections of the population size of all urban agglomerations with 300,000 inhabitants or more in 2014, also for the period 1950 to 2030. Recognizing the importance of smaller cities and towns, this latest revision has expanded the number of cities and provides population estimates and projections for 1,692 urban settlements, compared to 633 in the *2011 Revision*. Outputs presenting the results of the *2014 Revision* include the publication of the *Highlights*,[18] a report presenting the methodology used,[19] and an interactive online database accessible through the Division's website. In preparing the *2014 Revision*, particular attention was paid to the production of detailed documentation on the data sources and definitions used at the country level for urban and rural areas, as well as for cities and urban agglomerations. The full metadata compiled in this regard are accessible on the Population Division's website.[20] The site also includes figures and maps illustrating the results obtained. The final analytical report, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision*, is scheduled to be released in the first quarter of 2015.

29. The 2014 revision of *World Urbanization Prospects* showed that 54 per cent of the world's population resided in urban areas in 2014. By 2050, 66 per cent of the world's population is projected to be urban. Today's most urbanized regions include northern America (82 per cent living in urban areas in 2014), Latin America and the Caribbean (80 per cent) and Europe (73 per cent). In contrast, Africa and Asia remain mostly rural, with 40 and 48 per cent of their respective populations living in urban areas. All regions are expected to further urbanize over the coming decades.

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[16] "World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision — Methodology" (Working Paper No. ESA/P/WP.235).

[17] http://esa.un.org/unpd/ppp/index.htm.

[18] *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision — Highlights* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.XIII.8).

[19] "World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision — Methodology" (Working Paper No. ESA/P/WP/237).

[20] http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/index.htm.

Africa and Asia will do so faster than other regions and are projected to become 57 per cent and 65 per cent urban, respectively, by 2050. The rural population of the world, currently close to 3.4 billion, has grown slowly over the last several decades and is expected to reach its peak in a few years, and begin to decline to 3.1 billion by 2050. Africa and Asia are home to nearly 90 per cent of the world's rural population.

30. Close to one half of the world's urban dwellers reside in relatively small settlements of less than 500,000 inhabitants, while around one in eight live in the 28 megacities with more than 10 million inhabitants. Tokyo is the world's largest city with an agglomeration of 38 million inhabitants, followed by Delhi with 25 million, Shanghai with 23 million, and Mexico City, Mumbai and São Paulo, each with around 21 million inhabitants. By 2030, the world is projected to have 41 megacities with more than 10 million inhabitants. Tokyo is projected to remain the world's largest city in 2030 with 37 million inhabitants, followed still by Delhi, whose population is projected to rise swiftly to 36 million. Several decades ago most of the world's largest urban agglomerations were found in the more developed regions, but today's large cities are concentrated in the global South. Many of the fastest growing urban agglomerations are small and medium-sized cities located in Asia and Africa.

VI. Health and mortality

31. During the reporting period, the Population Division produced several studies related to adult mortality, including mortality at older ages. One issue of Population Facts was dedicated to the topic "Living to old age: A new world norm";[21] it called attention to the fact that mortality at older ages (65 years or over) accounted for half of all deaths worldwide in 2005-2010, and that this number is expected to keep rising in the future. The main reason for the increase in the percentage of old-age deaths differs between development groups. For the less developed regions, including the least developed countries, it was the decline in the number of deaths in childhood due to communicable diseases. For the more developed regions, the main reason was the decline in the number of adult deaths due to non-communicable diseases. The brief notes that the estimates of old-age deaths are less reliable than those of deaths at other ages, and that further improvements in data collection and measurement are required.

32. During 2014, the Population Division contributed to the work of the Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, whose task is to monitor progress made towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 4, namely, a reduction of infant and child mortality by two thirds between 1990 and 2015. The Inter-Agency Group, led by UNICEF and WHO, also includes the Population Division and the World Bank. The Population Division provided information to update the database on infant and under-five mortality estimates maintained by UNICEF (http://childmortality.org/), and it collaborated in the preparation of the 2014 report *Levels and Trends in Child Mortality*.[22]

[21] Population Facts No. 2014/5.

[22] http://childmortality.org/.

33. In addition, the Population Division continued to collaborate in the Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group, which is responsible for monitoring progress towards the reduction of maternal mortality, a target under Goal 5. The Inter-Agency Group is led by WHO, with the participation of UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank and the Population Division. The Division provides key inputs to the maternal mortality estimation process, including country-level estimates of the number of women of reproductive age, the total fertility rate and the number of live births. For the 2014 revision of the maternal mortality estimates, the Division also contributed with data processing of maternal mortality modules from household surveys.

34. The Population Division also conducted research on the use of sibling histories from surveys to derive maternal mortality estimates, and produced a technical paper entitled "The impact of including reports from male respondents on estimates of maternal mortality from demographic and health surveys". The paper concludes that the inclusion of reports from male respondents yields similar estimates of the proportion of maternal deaths among women 15 to 49 years old as when male respondents are excluded, but that the addition of male respondents may be especially valuable when examining age patterns of maternal mortality. All technical papers are available from the Division's website.

VII. Population and development

35. The Population Division published a wall chart on population and development in small island developing States, in anticipation of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States that was held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014. The wall chart presents the latest data available on 16 indicators of demographic, environmental and economic characteristics of the populations of small island developing States; up-to-date information on topics analysed in more detail is provided in a technical paper that the Population Division published in 2013.[23] The total population living in small island developing States in 2014 was estimated to be 66 million. Because of their small population size, net out-migration significantly impacts the population growth of small island developing States, especially in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. The negative effects of out-migration are partially compensated by the inflow of remittances, which are sizeable as a proportion of GDP in several small island developing States. Since nearly 90 per cent of small island developing States are located in tropical areas, their populations are disproportionately affected by environmental hazards and climate change. Nearly 29 million people living in small island developing States were affected by natural disasters between 1990 and 2013.

36. In the area of urbanization, the Population Division produced a new version of the estimates of the *Urban and Rural Population by Age and Sex* for the period 1980-2015 for all countries of the world with a population of 300,000 inhabitants or more in 2014. The database is available in CD-ROM and as an interactive database online.[24] This revision incorporates recently available data from the 2010 round of censuses and the last edition of the estimates and projections of the urban and rural

[23] Technical Paper No. 2013/4.

[24] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/dataset/urban/urbanAndRuralPopulationByAgeAndSex.shtml.

population, released in *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision*. The Division published a brief entitled "Our urbanizing world",[25] also based on the data from the *2014 Revision*. The brief noted that global urbanization has been driven by rapid growth of the urban population, concurrent with stagnating growth of the rural population, with projections indicating that around two thirds of countries will experience reductions in their rural populations between 2014 and 2050. The brief also points out that urban areas of Africa and Asia will absorb nearly all (90 per cent) of the projected growth of the world population to 2050.

37. Population ageing is a major, and increasingly relevant, global demographic trend, and the Population Division continued its work in updating its databases and analyses in this area. First, the Division released a new database, "Population ageing and development 2014", with time-series indicators on population ageing and development, including population size and age structure, fertility, health and mortality, socioeconomic indicators and government views and policies related to ageing. The database, which incorporates figures from *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision*, as well as other statistical sources, includes national-level indicators as well as aggregates for the world and regions. Secondly, the Population Division published a brief on population ageing and sustainable development,[26] emphasizing that global ageing is set to accelerate in the coming decades, as the percentage of the global population aged 60 years or over is expected to increase from 12 per cent in 2014 to 21 per cent in 2050. The brief also highlights the fact that older persons often provide net financial support to younger generations, and that a significant proportion of older people live independently, that is to say alone or with a spouse only. But it also calls attention to the need to prepare for the increasing demand for and expenditure on interventions that prevent and treat morbidities associated with old age, especially non-communicable diseases.

38. In relation to the interrelations between population and the environment and the international attention to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda, the Population Division released the "Population and development" database, which includes 62 variables dealing with population dynamics, labour force, education, health, economic growth, social development, natural resources and the environment. The database includes national-level indicators for all countries or areas with available data, as well as the aggregates for the world, development groups and major geographical areas, and is intended to facilitate integrated access to this information by policymakers, researchers, the media and civil society. The database is available on CD-ROM and through an interactive web interface.[27]

[25] Population Facts No. 2014/3, available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2014-3.pdf.

[26] Population Facts No. 2014/4, available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2014-4.pdf.

[27] www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/development/population-development-database-2014.shtml.

VIII. Monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information

A. Monitoring of population trends and policies

39. The Division prepared the reports for the forty-seventh session of the Commission. The biennial report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2014/3) reviewed the major demographic trends since the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994, drawing on a large number of new publications issued by the Population Division in 2013. The report indicated that the world's population reached 7.2 billion in 2014 and is expected to increase by more than 2 billion by 2050; most of the future population growth is expected to occur in the less developed regions. While the populations of Africa and Asia will increase greatly in the coming decades, a number of countries are expected to experience a decline in their population size due to persistently low fertility. Despite significant improvements in life expectancy over the past 20 years, many countries will fail to meet the targets for life expectancy, infant and child mortality and maternal mortality included in the Programme of Action.

40. The report of the Secretary-General on the framework of action for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 (E/CN.9/2014/4 and Corr.1) was prepared in collaboration with UNFPA, as it was based largely on the UNFPA report on the operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action and its follow-up beyond 2014. The report emphasized that the respect, protection, promotion and fulfilment of human rights are necessary to improve the development, dignity and well-being of all people, and that sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as an understanding of the implications of population dynamics, are critical foundations for sustainable development. Protecting and fulfilling the human rights of young people and investing in their high-quality education, effective livelihood skills, access to sexual and reproductive health services and information, including comprehensive sexuality education, in addition to employment opportunities, are also necessary for the achievement of their full potential.

41. In resolution 65/234, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare an index report indicating recurrent themes and key elements identified during the sessions of the Commission on Population and Development. The Population Division, in collaboration with UNFPA, prepared the report (A/69/122) and transmitted it for consideration at the twenty-ninth special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, held in New York on 22 September 2014.

42. The index report highlighted the discussion in plenary meetings during the forty-seventh session of the Commission in 2014, where Member States expressed widespread support for the continuing centrality of the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development to global development, and for ensuring that the principles and objectives of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation be carried forward in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. Many Member States referred to the 20-year review of the implementation of the

Programme of Action led by UNFPA and emphasized the need to take into account its findings and recommendations in shaping the population policies of the future. The need to continue efforts to improve the living conditions of all population groups, eradicate poverty and reduce social and economic inequalities was also identified as a recurrent theme of the Commission during its forty-seventh session. States emphasized the essential role that the Commission has played in assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action, and the importance of human rights and a people-centred approach for the post 2015 agenda. They urged the international community to give priority to the core goals of gender equality, empowerment of women, investment in young people, inclusive economic growth and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and to capitalize on the opportunities resulting from population trends to address climate change and ensure environmental sustainability.

B. Coordination activities

43. The Population Division organized the twelfth coordination meeting on international migration in New York on 21 and 22 February 2014. The meeting was attended by more than 150 participants, including representatives of Member States, Observers, United Nations system entities, and non-governmental organizations. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Migration, the Director-General of the International Labour Office and the Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development also participated in the meeting. The meeting focused on the follow-up to and implementation of the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and of the eight-point agenda for action of the Secretary-General. The meeting also considered how to integrate migration into the implementation framework of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

44. The Population Division participated in the twenty-fourth session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, which was held in Rome on 11 and 12 September 2014. The meeting was organized by the Statistics Division and FAO. The report and the results of a survey conducted by the Committee were presented, and the Division contributed to discussions on the data revolution, the use of national versus international data in the monitoring of development goals, and the use of Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange applications.

45. The Population Division participated in the meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators in Geneva in October 2014, to assess progress towards Goal 5, including target 5.B on reproductive health. The discussion focused on the structure and content of the final report on progress on the Millennium Development Goals achieved in 2015, as well as common challenges and opportunities for monitoring progress within the United Nations system and at the global, regional and country levels. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group also considered next steps, until the end of 2015, to contribute lessons learned and guidance from monitoring the Millennium Development Goals for the international monitoring of targets in the post-2015 development agenda.

C. Dissemination of population information and data

46. During 2014, the Population Division continued to update and expand its website in order to provide timely access to population information for use by government officials, researchers in academia or the private sector, and civil society. At the beginning of the year, the Population Division released the Population Policy Database, thereby improving the accessibility of information on this broad topic to the public. The website now contains all publications issued by the Division as well as a full collection of documents for and statements made during the sessions of the Commission on Population and Development. In cooperation with the Department for Public Information, the Population Division created a dedicated website in the six official United Nations languages to support the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014. The website was developed with a responsive web design so as to meet United Nations standards and to provide the best possible viewing experience on mobile devices.

47. To improve dissemination of information, the Population Division has actively engaged in promoting content via social media channels. The Facebook campaign of the special session of the General Assembly alone was able to reach over 130,000 individuals and the link to the dedicated website was shared 154 times over all major regions of the world. The outreach was also expanded by engaging experts outside and inside the United Nations to compose a short video intended to promote the special session in the lead-up to the General Assembly. The video, hosted on YouTube, was viewed in excess of 4,000 times, facilitating further dissemination and leading viewers to the website.

IX. Technical cooperation

48. The Population Division, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), provided technical support to the Government of Uruguay at the request of the Office of Planning and Budget. A joint Population Division/ECLAC mission was undertaken in August 2014 to assess technical and policy issues related to population ageing and the sustainability of the Uruguayan social security system. Population Division and ECLAC staff delivered a training workshop in November 2014 in Montevideo on probabilistic population projections and some of the fiscal implications of population ageing. The workshop trained 16 Uruguayan professionals from government offices, including the National Statistical Institute, the Banco de Previsión Social and the University of the Republic.

49. The Population Division, in collaboration with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Economic Commission for Africa, convened a workshop on "Strengthening the collection and use of international migration data for development" in Addis Ababa in November 2014. The workshop served to increase the capacity of 40 participants from 13 countries of sub-Saharan Africa to produce national migration data and to enhance the use of migration data for policy purposes. Participants included experts from national statistical offices and representatives of ministries or agencies, as well as experts from international and regional organizations working in the field of international migration, labour mobility and refugee protection in Africa.

Annex

Workshops, publications and other materials organized or prepared by the Population Division (1 January-31 December 2014)[a]

Training workshops

Workshop on probabilistic population projections, Montevideo, 4-7 November 2014. Organized by the United Nations (Population Division and ECLAC Population Division) and the Planning and Budget Office and the National Statistical Institute of Uruguay.

Workshop on strengthening the collection and use of international migration data for development, Addis Ababa, 18-21 November 2014. Organized jointly by the Population Division and the Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa.

Research studies

Abortion Policies and Reproductive Health around the World (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.XIII.11)

Concise Report on the World Population Situation 2014 (ST/ESA/SER.A/354)

Compendium of Recommendations on Population and Development, Vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.XIII.12)

Compendium of Recommendations on Population and Development, Vol. II (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.XIII.13)

World Fertility Report 2013: Fertility at the Extremes (ST/ESA/SER.A/362)

World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision — Highlights (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.XIII.8)

Databases

Migration Profiles — Common Set of Indicators (web datasets) (http://esa.un.org/MigGMGProfiles/MPCSI.htm)

Population Ageing and Development Database 2014 (http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/ageing/ageing-development-database-2014.shtml)

World Contraceptive Use 2014 (web datasets) (http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/dataset/contraception/wcu2014.shtml)

Probabilistic Population Projections based on the *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision* (web datasets) (http://esa.un.org/unpd/ppp/)

[a] Excluding reports issued as parliamentary documentation.

Population and Development Database 2014 (web dataset)
(http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/development/population-development-database-2014.shtml)

Population and Development Database 2014
(CD-ROM) (POP/DB/PD/PDDB/2014)

Urban and Rural Population by Age and Sex, 1980-2015 (version 3, August 2014)
(web datasets)
(http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/dataset/urban/urbanAndRuralPopulationByAgeAndSex.shtml)

Urban and Rural Population by Age and Sex, 1980-2015 (version 3, August 2014)
(CD-ROM) (POP/DB/PD/URPAS/2014)

World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision (CD-ROM Edition)
(ST/ESA/SER.A/361)

World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision (web datasets)
(http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/DataQuery/)

World Population Policies (web datasets)
(http://esa.un.org/PopPolicy/about_database.aspx.)

Wallcharts

Population and Development in SIDS 2014 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.XIII.7)

Reproductive Health Policies 2014 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.XIII.10)

Urban Agglomerations 2014 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.XIII.14)

Urban and Rural Areas 2014 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.XIII.15)

Technical papers series

"The correspondence between projected total fertility and contraceptive prevalence using the proximate determinants framework" (Technical Paper No. 2014/1)

"The impact of including reports from male respondents on estimates of maternal mortality from demographic and health surveys" (Technical Paper No. 2014/3)

Expert papers series

"Different pathways to low fertility in Asia: consequences and policy implications" (Expert Paper No. 2014/1)

Working papers

"World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision — Methodology" (Working Paper No. ESA/P/WP.235)

"World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision — Methodology" (Working Paper No. ESA/P/WP.237)

Policy briefs

Despite overall expansion in the legal grounds for abortion, policies remain restrictive in many countries. Population Facts No. 2014/1

A World of Cities. Population Facts No. 2014/2

Our urbanizing world. Population Facts No. 2014/3

Population ageing and sustainable development. Population Facts No. 2014/4

Living to old age: A new world norm. Population Facts No. 2014/5

Population growth and universal access to reproductive health. Population Facts No. 2014/6